

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 2, line 27 through page 4, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraphs.

[0006]

Further, a construction has been proposed in which, when both of the boot and the cup are made of hard materials, an adaptor member made of rubber or elastic plastic that is soft and can be easily deformed is interposed between the boot and the cup so as to eliminate the gap between the respective members at the fixing part (see, for example, ~~patent document~~ + U.S. Pat. No. 6,402,999). To be specific, as shown in FIG. 10, to mount a boot 101 on a case (not shown) formed in the shape of a tripod, an adaptor member 110 having a circular outer peripheral surface 111 and an inner peripheral surface 113 having convex portions 112 corresponding to the shape of a tripod of the outer periphery of the fixing part of the case is made separately from the boot 101 main body. Then, the adaptor 110 is fitted in the boot 101 and is further mounted on the case to cover and protect the movable mechanism of a constant-velocity joint.

[0007]

Further, a construction has been proposed in which an annular rubber bush 130 is mounted on the opening end edge 122 of a hollow cylindrical boot body 128 made of synthetic resin as a dust preventing boot of constant-velocity joint (see, for example, ~~patent document 2~~ Japanese published unexamined utility model application No. 60-64362). The rubber bush 130 is formed in the shape of a letter C in section and the opening end edge 122 is closely fitted in the center depressed groove 132. The rubber bush 130 is pressed onto the outer peripheral surface 116 of the case by a fastening band 134 mounted on the outer peripheral surface of the rubber bush 130. Here, FIG. 11A is a sectional view of a dust preventing boot 126 and FIG. 11B is an enlarged sectional view of a portion enclosed by a dotted line in FIG. 11A.

[0008]

~~Patent document 1: U.S. Patent No. 6402999~~

~~Patent document 2: Japanese published unexamined utility model application No. 60-64362~~

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 5, line 3 through line 17 with the following rewritten paragraphs.

[0012]

To achieve above-mentioned object, the present invention provides a universal joint boot comprising:

a boot body including a cylindrical bellows part that has valleys and peaks formed continuously in a repetitive manner and can extend and contract and an opening portion which is formed in one end of the bellows part and into which a case for receiving one member of two members moving relatively to each other is inserted; and,

~~an~~ An annular adaptor that is mounted on an inner peripheral surface of the opening portion and has an outer peripheral surface formed nearly in the same shape as the inner peripheral surface;

~~characterized in that the~~ The adaptor has:

After page 7, line 21, please insert the following paragraphs.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic construction view of a universal joint boot according to embodiment 1.

FIG. 2 is an external perspective view showing a state where a boot according to this embodiment is mounted on a case.

FIG. 3 is a half-sectional view of an adaptor according to embodiment 1.

FIG. 4 is a half-sectional view of the adaptor according to embodiment 1.

FIG. 5 is a half-sectional view of the adaptor according to embodiment 1.

FIG. 6 is a schematic construction view of a universal joint boot according to embodiment 2.

FIG. 7 is a half-sectional view of an adaptor according to embodiment 2.

FIG. 8 is a half-sectional view of the adaptor according to embodiment 2.

FIG. 9 is a half-sectional view of the adaptor according to embodiment 2.

FIG. 10 is an external perspective view of a boot for protecting a constant-velocity joint in the related art.

FIG. 11 is a sectional view of a dust-protecting boot in the related art.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 12, line 5 through page 13, line 19 with the following rewritten paragraphs.

[0034]

The adaptor 20 120 according to the embodiment 2 has the fixing portion 24 124 fixed to the boot body 1 by the band 30, the folding portion 25 125 having a thinner thickness than the fixing part 24 124 so as to be easily folded back, and the reversing portion 26 126 that is folded back and then sandwiches one opening portion 2 of the boot body 1.

[0035]

Here, the reversing portion 26 126 is extended to a position opposite to the outer periphery of the fixing portion 24 124 in a state where it is folded back from the folding portion 25 125. The reversing portion 26 126 has a mounting portion 26b 126b where the band 30 is mounted. The mounting portion 26b 126b is formed on the outer periphery of the reversing portion 26 126 in a state where the reversing portion 26 126 is folded back at the folding portion 25 125. Further, the mounting portion 26b 126b, a portion of the reversing portion 26 126, is depressed along the entire periphery so that the band 30 is not shifted in a mounting position.

[0036]

As described above, the opening portion 2 of the boot body 1 is sandwiched by the fixing portion 24 124 and the reversing portion 26 126 and then the band 30 is mounted on the mounting portion 26b 126b to seal not only the fixing portion 24 124 and the boot but also the boot body 1 and the reversing portion 26 126, which can further enhance sealing ability.

[0037]

Further, an uneven surface may be formed on the outer periphery of the fixing portion 24 124 (see FIG. 8). With this, the boot body 1 becomes resistant to being removed from the adaptor 20 120 and hence the boot body 1 is securely fixed to the cup 40 by the band 30.

[0038]

Still further, when the adaptor 20 is manufactured, the reversing portion 26 126 does not necessarily need to be straight with respect to the fixing portion but, as shown in FIG. 9, may be gradually increased in inside diameter toward the tip of the reversing portion 26 126. With this, the reversing portion 26 126 can be easily folded back and hence it is possible to provide a universal joint boot that can be easily assembled.

Please delete the paragraphs beginning at page 13, line 20 through page 15, line 11 in their entirety.

~~BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS~~

[0039]

~~FIG. 1 is a schematic construction view of a universal joint boot according to embodiment 1.~~

~~FIG. 2 is an external perspective view showing a state where a boot according to this embodiment is mounted on a case.~~

~~FIG. 3 is a half-sectional view of an adaptor according to embodiment 1.~~

~~FIG. 4 is a half-sectional view of the adaptor according to embodiment 1.~~

~~FIG. 5 is a half-sectional view of the adaptor according to embodiment 1.~~

~~FIG. 6 is a schematic construction view of a universal joint boot according to embodiment 2.~~

~~FIG. 7 is a half-sectional view of an adaptor according to embodiment 2.~~

FIG. 8 is a half-sectional view of the adaptor according to embodiment 2.

FIG. 9 is a half-sectional view of the adaptor according to embodiment 2.

FIG. 10 is an external perspective view of a boot for protecting a constant-velocity joint in the related art.

FIG. 11 is a sectional view of a dust-protecting boot in the related art.

EXPLANATIONS OF LETTERS OR NUMERALS

[0040]

1 boot body

2 opening portion

10 universal joint boot

20 adaptor

21 outer peripheral surface

22 opening end edge

22 inner peripheral surface

23 protrusion

24 fixing portion

24a uneven surface

25 folding portion

26 reversing portion

26a protruding portion

26b mounting portion

30 band

40 joint cup (case)